

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6-15, 18, 19, 23 and 24 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 18 are amended and claims 23 and 24 are added. No new matter is added by these amendments. This Amendment supplements Applicants' October 17, 2008 Amendment, the arguments from which are not repeated here. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners McCullough and Mackey at the interview held October 21, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,666,262 to Fowler et al. (hereinafter "Fowler") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,927 to Sako et al. (hereinafter "Sako"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 calls for the plurality of driven rollers operating in a same direction to feed the sheet in a downstream direction.

As discussed with Examiner McCullough and Mackey at the personal interview, Fowler discloses a magnetic card transport having a read amplifier 37, drive rollers 8, 9 and 10 and associated drive rollers 3, 4 and 5 (*see* Figs. 1 and 3a and 3b; col. 2, lines 64-67 and col. 4, lines 14-38). Furthermore, as pointed out by Examiner McCullough, Fowler also discloses that the drive rollers 3, 4 and 5 operate in different directions to feed the cards in an upstream and downstream direction. Specifically, drive roller 3 is rotated in a counterclockwise direction, drive roller 4 is rotated in a clockwise direction and drive roller 5 is rotated in a clockwise direction. (*See* Fowler's col. 2, lines 40-58). Thus, Fowler does not disclose or suggest a driven roller unit where the plurality of driven rollers operate in a same direction to feed the sheet in a downstream direction.

Moreover, it would not have been obvious to modify Fowler such that the drive rollers 3, 4 and 5 rotate all in a same direction, because, in essence, each of Fowler's drive rollers is a unique driven roller unit with a specific job (i.e., drive roller 3 is a forward drive roller, drive roller 4 is a high speed reverse drive roller and drive roller 5 is the roller that actually positions the card for reading). (*See* Fowler's col. 2, lines 40-58). Therefore, the proposed modification of Fowler's drive rollers to operate as claimed in independent claim 1 would improperly render Fowler's invention unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. (*See* MPEP §2143.01).

Furthermore, Sako fails to overcome the deficiencies of Fowler, and is only cited as allegedly disclosing a coefficient of friction of an outer layer of a driven roller that is smaller than a coefficient of friction of an outer layer of a drive roller.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 2001-310857 to Masaaki. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 18 calls for a nip portion between the drive roller and the driven roller contacts a leading edge of the sheet substantially at a point of the sheet when the sheet passes through the reading point and the leading edge of the sheet collides against the nip portion.

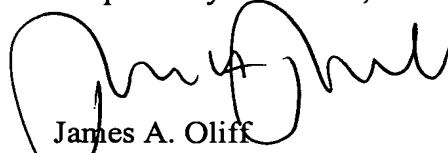
Masaaki fails to disclose the above-mentioned feature because Masaaki is silent with regard to whether the nip portion contacts the leading edge of the sheet while the reading operation of the sheet is still in progress. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, in supplement to the claim amendments and remarks made in Applicants' October 17, 2008 Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application

is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RHR/kcp

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